

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Families and Staff,

In March 2016, the Cambridge School Committee voted to implement an elementary world language program, which would expand world language offerings beyond the district's two-way immersion and extended learning time schools to more Cambridge elementary schools. Throughout this school year, district administrators have been working with principals, educators and families to determine the design of an elementary world language pilot program and select possible sites for implementation.

As a result of this process, the Peabody and Morse elementary schools have been selected as the district's pilot schools. Based on input from over 1,000 current elementary school families and educators, Spanish has been chosen as the world language. The program will be implemented with students in grade 4 in September of 2017. Administrators and educators in both schools will be involved in the ongoing design, implementation, and assessment of the program to ensure a high quality world language program that positively impacts student learning.

An important goal of the pilot is to enrich the elementary curriculum and elevate the arts alongside the core academic subjects. Fourth grade students will learn Spanish in specific Spanish language classes, as well as through an integrated approach in their homerooms and specialist classes. Educators will be supported to work together to determine the different ways Spanish can be integrated into students' daily and weekly instruction.

We sincerely appreciate the Peabody and the Morse schools for piloting this program. We look forward to working closely with the schools – their educators, students, and families – to ensure an enriching and connected learning experience for all that can inform world language opportunities for students throughout Cambridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KS", representing Kenneth N. Salim.

Kenneth N. Salim
Superintendent of Schools